

## Business Assistance

Below are links to some useful resources. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either of my offices.

- [State of Illinois Business Assistance](#)
- [Illinois Small Business Assistance](#)
- [Tax information for Illinois businesses](#)
- [Small Business Administration](#)
- [Small Business Information](#)
- [City of Chicago Business Assistance](#)
- [City of Northlake Business Information](#)
- [Village of Melrose Park Business Information](#)
- [Franklin Park/Schiller Park Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [River Grove Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [House Committee on Small Business](#)
- [Consumer Protection](#)

## The Digital Television (DTV) Transition

On June 12, 2009, all full-power broadcast television stations in the United States stopped broadcasting on analog airwaves and began broadcasting only in digital. Digital broadcasting allows stations to offer improved picture and sound quality and additional channels.

The DTV Transition is the nationwide termination of traditional analog television broadcasting which occurred on June 12, 2009, at midnight. Analog television broadcasting was the previous method of transmitting television signals throughout the United States. Digital television is a new method of television broadcasting which provides much better picture and sound quality than analog television.

The DTV Transition provides viewers a better television experience and in broader ways it will

benefit the public. The digital television signal is more efficient than the analog signal and that's why the DTV Transition will free up major portions of the airwaves for public safety communications such as police, fire and emergency rescue, and new broadband wireless services.

### ***Will my analog television set still work after the DTV Transition?***

Yes, provided that certain steps are taken. If you have an analog television set and receive television service by means of an over-the-air antenna (rabbit ears), you will need to attach a small digital-to-analog converter box to your television. If you have an analog television set which is connected to cable or satellite, those service providers will make sure that your television set receives a viewable image. If you have a digital television set, your television is ready for the DTV Transition.

Analog television sets also should continue to work as they have with gaming consoles, VCRs, DVD players and similar products.

### ***How do I obtain a converter box?***

Beginning early in 2008, converter boxes will be available for purchase at some retail stores. The converter boxes are expected to cost between \$50 to \$70. All U.S. households may receive up to two \$40 coupons to apply toward the purchase of up to two digital-to-analog converter boxes. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), a federal government agency, is in charge of the Digital-to-Analog Converter Box Coupon Program.

### ***How do I get my coupons?***

To request a coupon, consumers can apply online at [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov). There is also a 24-hour hotline to take requests at, 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009). Applications can also be mailed to P.O. Box 2000, Portland, OR 97208-2000. Coupons will be ailed to requesters. Consumers can apply for coupons until March 31, 2009 or until the funds are exhausted.

### ***Where can I use my coupon to purchase a converter box?***

There are more than 25,000 participating retailers, including seven of the largest national consumer electronics retail chains, and more than 35 online and phone retailers. A complete list and a searchable database of retailers by zip code is available at <https://www.dtv2009.gov/VendorSearch.aspx>

. When the coupon is mailed to you, it will include an insert with a list of nearby participating retailers. Consumers should investigate their options and call ahead to confirm availability of coupon-eligible converter boxes on the day you plan to shop.

For additional information about the DTV Transition and what you may need to do to prepare for it, visit the Federal Communications Commission's website <http://www.dtv.gov/> or call the Federal Communications Commission at 1-888-225-5322 (TTY: 1-888-835-5322).

## Identity Theft

Identity theft has become an epidemic in Illinois and across the United States, claiming over 10 million victims last year alone. It's also one of the most costly crimes to consumers and businesses, and is the fastest growing white collar crime in America according to the [Federal Trade Commission](#)

Securing IDs is essential to not only protecting consumers from financial loss and shoring up the world's finest financial system, but also to securing our homeland from criminals, drug dealers, and terrorists. The protection of personal identification and financial records is an important part in preventing such plagues as meth addiction, white collar fraud, and terrorism.

Illinoisans should be vigilant to protect themselves and our community from the dangers caused by identity thieves. If you become a victim of ID theft, please contact my district office at (773) 267-5926 for personal assistance or visit the [Federal Trade Commission Identity Theft Web Site](#) for advice on how to secure your personal data as well as what to do if your identity is stolen.

[OnGuardOnline.gov](#) provides practical tips from the federal government and the technology industry to help you be on guard against Internet fraud, secure your computer, and protect your personal information. You can also take their [tests](#) to learn how to avoid becoming a victim of phishing, spam, spyware and other online scams.